

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Connect America Fund)	WC Docket No. 10-90
)	
Universal Service Reform – Mobility Fund)	WT Docket No. 10-208
)	
ETC Annual Reports and Certifications)	WC Docket No. 14-58
)	
Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers)	WC Docket No. 07-135
)	
Developing an Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime)	CC Docket No. 01-92
)	
Motion by Competitive Carriers Association for an Extension of Time to Submit Reply Comments)	

ORDER

Adopted: September 3, 2014

Released: September 3, 2014

By the Acting Chief, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, and the Chief, Auctions & Spectrum Access Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau:

1. In this Order, the Telecommunications Access Policy Division of the Wireline Competition Bureau, and the Auctions & Spectrum Access Division of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau deny a request for an extension of time to file reply comments in the Commission’s universal service and intercarrier compensation rulemaking proceeding, filed by the Competitive Carriers Association (CCA).¹ On June 10, 2014, the Commission released the *Connect America Fund, et al. FNPRM*, which proposes to update and implement further the high-cost universal service reform framework adopted by the Commission in 2011.² The *Connect America Fund et al. FNPRM* set dates for comments and reply comments of August 8 and September 8, 2014, respectively.³

2. CCA requests a 30-day extension of the reply comment deadline, to October 8, 2014. CCA seeks additional time to review the number of comments filed in response to the FNPRM and to review comments to be filed in the Commission’s 10th Broadband Progress Notice of Inquiry.⁴

¹ Motion by Competitive Carriers Association for an Extension of Time to Submit Reply Comments, WC Docket No. 10-90 et al. (filed Aug. 22, 2014) (Competitive Carriers Association Request).

² See *Connect America Fund, et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 et al., Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 29 FCC Rcd 7051, 7100 (2014) (*Connect America Fund FNPRM*).

³ See 79 Fed. Reg. 39163, 39196 (July 9, 2014).

⁴ Competitive Carriers Association Request at 2-3; see also *Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion, and Possible Steps to Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as amended by the Broadband Data Improvement Act*, GN Docket No. 14-146, Tenth Broadband Progress Notice of Inquiry, FCC 14-113 (rel. Aug. 5, 2014).

Additionally, CCA notes that “it has commissioned an independent study of mobile broadband coverage in several rural states at county and sub-county levels,” the conclusions of which it would like to incorporate into its reply comments.⁵

3. We conclude that grant of an extension of time in the above captioned proceedings is not warranted under the present circumstances. Extensions of time are not routinely granted,⁶ and we do not believe that circumstances cited by CCA warrant a grant of additional time. Commission proceedings often involve a significant number of comments and overlapping comment cycles are not unusual given the press of Commission business.⁷ We find the comment cycle established by the Commission in this proceeding affords sufficient time for public participation. If CCA wishes to submit its research into the docket, it is free to submit a written *ex parte*.⁸ We therefore deny the CCA Motion for Extension of Time, and the pleading cycles originally established in the FNPRM in WC Docket No. 10-90 et al. will remain in effect.

4. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to sections 4(i), 4(j), 5(c) and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 154(j), 155(c) and 303(r), and sections 0.91, 0.291, and 1.46 of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.91, 0.291, 1.46, the Motion for an Extension of Time to Submit Reply Comments filed by Competitive Carriers Association IS DENIED.

5. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to section 1.102(b)(1) of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.102(b)(1), this Order SHALL BE EFFECTIVE upon release.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Vickie Robinson
Acting Chief
Telecommunications Access Policy Division
Wireline Competition Bureau

Margaret W. Wiener
Chief
Auctions & Spectrum Access Division
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

⁵ Competitive Carriers Association Request at 2.

⁶ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46.

⁷ See, e.g., *Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet*, GN Docket No. 14-28, Order, DA 14-988 (Wireline Comp. Bur. rel. July 10, 2014); *Petition of the City of Wilson, North Carolina, Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, for Removal of Barriers to Broadband Investment and Competition*, WC Docket No. 14-115, *Petition of the Electric Power Board of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, for Removal of Barriers to Broadband Investment and Competition*, WC Docket No. 14-116, Order, DA 14-1246 (Wireline Comp. Bur. rel. Aug. 27, 2014) (denying requests for extensions of time to file comments and reply comments).

⁸ See *Connect America Fund FNPRM*, 29 FCC Rcd at 7155, para. 337; see also 47 C.F.R. § 1.1200 *et seq.*